

September 8, 2017

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington DC 20554

Re: Comment on Rate-of-Return Study Areas with Potentially 100 Percent Overlapped by Unsubsidized Competitors

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On August 11, 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) released a Public Notice in which the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) published a list of study areas potentially subject to the 100 percent overlap rule. The Commission seeks comment on whether the competitors in the study area codes (SACs) listed are offering voice and broadband to 100 percent of locations in the relevant census blocks meeting the requirements in 47 CFR § 54.319(a). The Commission has defined an unsubsidized competitor as "a facilities-based provider of residential fixed voice and broadband service that does not receive high-cost support."

Using Form 477 data from June 30, 2016, the Commission identified 13 rate-of-return study areas listed as potentially 100% overlapped by an unsubsidized competitor or combination of unsubsidized competitors. In the list, the Bureau listed Bascom Mutual Telephone Company (Bascom), SAC 300589 as one such area and identified WATCH TV and Time Warner Cable, Inc, now operating as Spectrum (TWC) as competitive providers. Based upon the evidence attached, we declare that our study area is not 100% overlapped by unsubsidized competitors.

On August 24, 2017, WATCH TV filed a letter with the Commission to inform the Wireline Competition Bureau, that it is unable to serve all subscribers in Bascom's SAC given its technology, terrestrial fixed wireless, has line-of-site limitations. These line of site limitations occur throughout Bascom's study area, including in areas served and not served by the other competitive provider listed in the August 11, 2017 Public Notice, TWC. WATCH TV therefore refuted the results of the Commission's preliminary analysis.

TWC also does not serve Bascom's entire study area. This fact is clearly demonstrated by the FCC's online map posted at <a href="https://fcc.gov/maps/100-pct-overlap-2017">https://fcc.gov/maps/100-pct-overlap-2017</a>. The map demonstrates that TWC does not serve the rural areas of Bascom's study area.

In addition, to demonstrate this fact, we have attached information from the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS). Each utility that owns or operates any underground utility facilities participates in and registers the location of its underground facilities with OUPS that serves the area where the facilities are located. OUPS publicizes the importance of ascertaining the location of underground utility facilities before excavating and the use of OUPS to ascertain that information. All facilities are documented and are updated regularly if changes are made. Based upon the data from OUPS, we are able to determine where utilities, including TWC, has facilities. Based upon the information attached, there are locations within the Bascom study area where TWC has no facilities listed. For purposes of comparison, we have also attached areas where TWC does have facilities. This additional information further demonstrates that TWC does not serve the rural areas of the Bascom study area. In addition, WATCH TV is unable to serve all subscribers in these unserved by TWC areas based upon the line of site issues discussed in its attached letter.

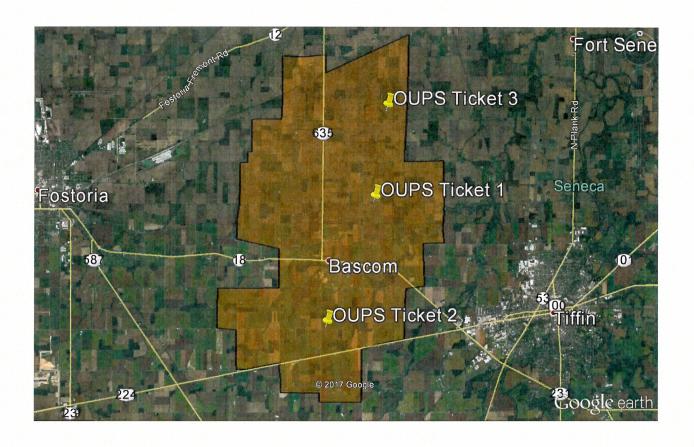
Based upon the information provided, Bascom refutes the Bureau's preliminary finding of 100% competitive overlap in the Bascom study area.

Sincerely,

Nathan Brickner

General Manager

Bascom Mutual Telephone Company



8/24/2017 Ticket Display

## Newtin - A (OUPS Youngstown)

Study Area with no Spectrum facilities

MBRCOD 00000 OUPSa 08/24/2017 12:02PM A723602088-00A ROUT NEW POLY LREQ

Ticket: A723602088 Rev: 00A Taken: 08/24/2017 12:02PM Chan: WEB

Old Tkt: A723602088 Taken: 08/24/2017 11:56AM

State: OH Cnty: SENECA Place: HOPEWELL TWP

Address : 4849 - 4849 Street: W TWP RD 132

Cross 1 : N TWP RD 109 Intersection: N
Cross 2 : N TWP RD 69 Between: N

Rail/Hwy: Milemarker(s): Where :ENTIRE PROPERTY

WorkType: BURY POWER LINES FOR LIGHTS AT END OF EACH DRIVEWAY

Done for: OWNER
Done by : SELF

Whitelined: N Blasting: N Means of Excavation: BACKHOE

Work date: 08/28/2017 12:11PM Meet: N

Start by: 09/08/2017 12:11PM Response Due: 08/28/2017 12:11PM

Best Fit: 41.153103/-83.255927 41.152005/-83.255914 : 41.152974/-83.266733 41.151876/-83.26672

Caller : RYAN DIBLE Phone: Ext:

Company : BASCOM MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO Type: MEMB

Co addr : **PO BOX 316** 

City: BASCOM State: OH Zip: 44809

Email: RYAN.DIBLE@BASCOMTELEPHONE.COM

Grids : 4109000831500 4109000831530 4109000831600

Polygon : 41.153094/-83.256658 41.153085/-83.256516 : 41.153056/-83.256380 41.153006/-83.256253 : 41.152939/-83.256141 41.152857/-83.256049 : 41.152763/-83.255980 41.152661/-83.255937 : 41.152554/-83.255921 41.152446/-83.255932 : 41.152343/-83.255972 41.152247/-83.256037 : 41.152163/-83.256125 41.152093/-83.256234 : 41.152041/-83.256359 41.152008/-83.256494 : 41.151996/-83.256636 41.151885/-83.265989 : 41.151894/-83.266130 41.151923/-83.266267

41.151894/-83.266130 41.151923/-83.266267 41.151973/-83.266394 41.152040/-83.266506 41.152122/-83.266598 41.152216/-83.266667 41.152318/-83.266710 41.152425/-83.266726 41.152533/-83.266715 41.152636/-83.266676

: 41.152732/-83.266610 41.152816/-83.266522 : 41.152886/-83.266413 41.152938/-83.266289 : 41.152971/-83.266153 41.152983/-83.266011

: 41.153094/-83.256658

Members:

AS =BASCOM MUTUAL TELEPHON GAC =ASPIRE ENERGY (FORMERL

NCN =NORTH CENTRL ELECTRIC

---- ADD ----- REMOVE -----D S C P G S O Y C P G S O Y C I Td Member \_\_\_\_\_ N N N N N N N N N N 98 ΥΥ N N Y BAS Υ N N N N N Υ N N NNNNNN **EMLCFM** 5 517 Y Y N N V NNNNNNNNN GAC Y Y N N Y N N N N N N N N N N NCN 833 1248 TST0  $N\quad N\quad N\quad Y\quad N\quad N\quad N\quad N\quad N\quad N\quad N$ COT 285

C - -4

Members	perive	Seq#	Type		
		=======		====	
BAS	08/24/2017	12:03PM	00003	MAIL	
EMLCFM	08/24/2017	12:03PM	01780	SYSQ	
GAC	08/24/2017	12:03PM	00061	MAIL	
NCN	08/24/2017	12:03PM	80000	MAIL	

8/24/2017 Ticket Display

## Newtin - A (OUPS Youngstown)

MBRCOD 00000 OUPSa 08/24/2017 03:43PM A723603391-00A ROUT NEW POLY LREQ

Ticket: A723603391 Rev: 00A Taken: 08/24/2017 03:43PM Chan: WEB

Old Tkt: A723603391 Taken: 08/24/2017 03:40PM

State: OH Cnty: SENECA Place: HOPEWELL TWP

Address : 5903 - 5903 Street: W TWP RD 110

Cross 1 : S CTY RD 7 Intersection: N

Rail/Hwy: Milemarker(s): Where :ENTIRE PROPERTY

WorkType: BURY ELECTRIC FOR FOUNTAIN

Done for: OWNER
Done by : SELF

Whitelined: N Blasting: N Means of Excavation: BACKHOE

Work date: 08/28/2017 03:55PM Meet: N

Start by: 09/08/2017 03:55PM Response Due: 08/28/2017 03:55PM

Best Fit: 41.109305/-83.268005 41.108185/-83.268013 : 41.109448/-83.28627 41.108327/-83.286278

Caller : RYAN DIBLE Phone: Ext:

Company: BASCOM MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO Type: MEMB

Co addr : PO BOX 316

City : BASCOM State: OH Zip: 44809

Email: RYAN.DIBLE@BASCOMTELEPHONE.COM

Grids : 4106000831600 4106000831630 4106000831700 4106300831600 4106300831630

4106300831700

Polygon: 41.109347/-83.276193 41.109311/-83.268730

: 41.109300/-83.268589 41.109268/-83.268453 : 41.109217/-83.268328 41.109148/-83.268218

: 41.109064/-83.268129 41.108969/-83.268062 : 41.108866/-83.268022 41.108758/-83.268009

: 41.108651/-83.268024 41.108549/-83.268066

: 41.108454/-83.268134 41.108371/-83.268225 : 41.108303/-83.268336 41.108253/-83.268461

: 41.108223/-83.268598 41.108213/-83.268740

: 41.108249/-83.276210 41.108344/-83.285558 : 41.108356/-83.285699 41.108389/-83.285835

: 41.108441/-83.285959 41.108510/-83.286068 : 41.108594/-83.286157 41.108690/-83.286222

: 41.108793/-83.286262 41.108900/-83.286274

: 41.109007/-83.286258 41.109110/-83.286215

: 41.109204/-83.286146 41.109286/-83.286054 : 41.109354/-83.285943 41.109403/-83.285817

: 41.109433/-83.285680 41.109442/-83.285538

: 41.109347/-83.276193

Members:

BAS =BASCOM MUTUAL TELEPHON NCN =NORTH CENTRL ELECTRIC

OPR =AEP OHIO POWER

							ADD						REMOVE					
Member	Id		D	S	С	Р	G	S	0	Υ	С	Р	G	S	0	Υ	C	I
BAS	98		Υ	Υ	N	N	=== Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
EMLCFM	5		Υ	N	N	N	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
NCN	833		Y	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
OPR	954		Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
TST0	1248		N	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Υ
СОТ	285		N	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Υ

Members	Delive	Delivered						
=======			======	=====				
BAS	08/24/2017	03:43PM	00005	MAIL				
EMLCFM	08/24/2017	03:43PM	02979	SYSQ				
NCN	08/24/2017	03:43PM	00010	MAIL				
OPR	08/24/2017	03:43PM	00393	MAIL				

Study Area with no Spectrum facilities 8/24/2017 Ticket Display

## Newtin - A (OUPS Youngstown)

Type: HOME

Study Area
with no Spectrum
facilities

MBRCOD 00000 OUPSa 08/23/2017 11:17AM A723502031-00A ROUT NEW POLY LREQ

Ticket: A723502031 Rev: 00A Taken: 08/23/2017 11:17AM Chan: OPR

Old Tkt: A723502031 Taken: 08/23/2017 11:10AM

State: OH Cnty: SENECA Place: LIBERTY TWP

Address: 0 - 0 Street: N TWP RD 69

Cross 1 : W CTY RD 592 Intersection: N

Rail/Hwy: Milemarker(s):

Where : FRONT OF PROPERTY AT ADDRESS 4244 N TWP RD 69 GOING SOUTH FOR 400FT

FARTHEST POINT OFF ROAD: 500FT OFF WEST SIDE OF ROAD

DISTANCE FROM CROSS STREET: 900FT NORTH OF

AREA IS MARKED WHITE PAINT

WorkType: FARM TILING

Done for: **SELF** Done by :

Whitelined: Y Blasting: N
Means of Excavation: TILE PLOW

Work date: 08/25/2017 11:25AM Meet: N

Start by: 09/07/2017 11:25AM Response Due: 08/25/2017 11:25AM

Best Fit: 41.189024/-83.257897 41.188875/-83.254292 : 41.180562/-83.258245 41.180414/-83.254641

Caller : JOHN KLEINFELTER Phone: 419-937-5388 Ext:

Company:

Co addr : 8900 W CTY RD 592

City : FOSTORIA State: OH Zip: 44830

Alt tel#: 419-937-5388 Ext:

Email: ASKED

Grids : **4110300831500 4111000831500** 

Polygon: 41.180531/-83.257484 41.180540/-83.257631 : 41.180572/-83.257771 41.180624/-83.257901 : 41.180694/-83.258014 41.180781/-83.258106 : 41.180879/-83.258213 41.180986/-83.258213 : 41.181097/-83.258223 41.18874/-83.257923

: 41.188479/-83.257906 41.188579/-83.257862 : 41.188671/-83.257793 41.188751/-83.257703 : 41.188817/-83.257594 41.188866/-83.257470 : 41.188896/-83.257336 41.188906/-83.255041 : 41.188896/-83.254899 41.188864/-83.254762 : 41.188814/-83.254637 41.188745/-83.254527

: 41.188662/-83.254436 41.188567/-83.254369 : 41.188464/-83.254328 41.188357/-83.254314 : 41.188250/-83.254328 41.188147/-83.254369 : 41.188052/-83.254436 41.187982/-83.254513 : 41.183978/-83.254764 41.181066/-83.254916 : 41.180960/-83.254935 41.180858/-83.254982

: 41.180765/-83.255054 41.180685/-83.255149 : 41.180620/-83.255262 41.180573/-83.255391 : 41.180546/-83.255528 41.180531/-83.257484

Members:

BAS =BASCOM MUTUAL TELEPHON GAC =ASPIRE ENERGY (FORMERL

NCN =NORTH CENTRL ELECTRIC

				ADD				REMOVE									
Member	Id	D	S	C	Р	G	S	0	Υ	C	Р	G	S	0	Υ	C	Ι
=========	========	:===	===	===	===	===	===	===	===	===	===	===	===	===	===	===	== N
BAS	98	•	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	N	N		N		N	N		N	
GAC	517	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
NCN	833	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
TST0	1248	N	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Υ
SWI	1152	N	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Υ

Members Delivered Seq# Type

**Ticket Display** 8/24/2017

## Newtin - A (OUPS Youngstown)

Type: CONT

MBRCOD 00000 OUPSa 08/23/2017 09:15AM A723501004-00A ROUT NEW POLY LREQ

Ticket: A723501004 Rev: 00A Taken: 08/23/2017 09:15AM Chan: OPR

Old Tkt: A723501004 Taken: 08/23/2017 09:10AM

State: OH Cnty: SENECA Place: TIFFIN

Address: 197 - 197 Street: WALL ST

Intersection: N Cross 1 : W ADAMS ST Between: N Cross 2 : MIAMI ST

Rail/Hwy: Milemarker(s): Where : REAR OF PROPERTY

FARTHEST POINT OFF ROAD: 800FT WEST

DISTANCE FROM CROSS STREET: SOUTH OF W ADAMS ST --NORTH OF MIAMI

WorkType: INSTALL ANNODE Done for: BUCKEYE PIPELINE

Done by:

Whitelined: Y Blasting: N Means of Excavation: EXCAVATOR

Work date: 08/25/2017 09:25AM Meet: N

Start by: 09/07/2017 09:25AM Response Due: 08/25/2017 09:25AM

Best Fit: 41.122619/-83.186486 41.119416/-83.186329 : 41.122398/-83.190995 41.119195/-83.190838

Caller : DALLAS MULLINS Ext: Phone:

Company: 0 & M CONSTRUCTION

Co addr : UNKNOWN

State: IN Zip: 00000 City : UNION CITY

Email: ASKED

Grids : 4107000831100

Polygon: 41.119723/-83.187394 41.119604/-83.187562

: 41.119555/-83.187688 41.119524/-83.187825 : 41.119515/-83.187967 41.119527/-83.188108 : 41.119597/-83.188551 41.119234/-83.190049 : 41.119230/-83.190188 41.119247/-83.190325 : 41.119283/-83.190455 41.119338/-83.190574 : 41.119408/-83.190677 41.119492/-83.190761 : 41.119587/-83.190822 41.119688/-83.190857 : 41.119793/-83.190867 41.121917/-83.190792 : 41.122018/-83.190776 41.122115/-83.190736

: 41.122204/-83.190672 41.122283/-83.190589 : 41.122350/-83.190487 41.122435/-83.190245 : 41.122510/-83.188707 41.122456/-83.188465 : 41.122303/-83.188171 41.121797/-83.186813

: 41.121739/-83.186694 41.121664/-83.186592 : 41.121575/-83.186511 41.121476/-83.186454 : 41.121371/-83.186424 41.121263/-83.186422

: 41.121157/-83.186448 41.121057/-83.186501 : 41.120072/-83.187172 41.119836/-83.187291

: 41.119723/-83.187394

Members:

=BASCOM MUTUAL TELEPHON BUCP =BUCKEYE PIPELINE BAS =COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO-F INNP =INLAND CORPORATION CGV OAT =AQUA OHIO - TIFFIN MCIP =MCI =AEP OHIO POWER **OBFP** =AT&T - OHIO OPR WCOP =CHARTER COMM (SPECTRUM) =TIFFIN - CITY OF TIF

---- ADD ----- REMOVE -----D S C P G S O Y C P G S O Y C I Member Id \_\_\_\_\_ YYNNYNNNNNNNNN 98 BAS **BPB** 135 N N N N Y N N N N N N N N N Y YYNNNYNNNNNNNN 163 BUCP 229 Y Υ N N Y N N N N NNN N N N N CGV Υ NNNNYNNNNNNNN 261 CNF YYN N N N 2669 TNNP

Example that
Spectrum facilities
do come up



August 24, 2017

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Comment on Rate-of-Return Study Areas Potentially 100 Percent Overlapped by

Unsubsidized Competitors, WC Docket 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 11, 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) released a Public Notice in which the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) published a list of study areas potentially subject to the 100% overlap rule. The Commission seeks comment on whether the competitors in the study area codes (SACs) listed are offering voice and broadband to 100% of locations in the relevant census blocks meeting the requirements in 47 CFR § 54.319(a). The Commission has defined an unsubsidized competitor as "a facilities-based provider of residential fixed voice and broadband service that does not receive high-cost support."

Using Form 477 data from June 30, 2016, the Commission identified thirteen rate-of-return study areas as potentially 100% overlapped by an unsubsidized competitor or combination of unsubsidized competitors. In the list, the Bureau listed Bascom Mutual Telephone Company (Bascom), SAC 300589, as one such area and identified WATCH TV as a competitive provider.

This letter is to inform the Bureau that WATCH TV does not offer fixed broadband and voice service in accordance with the Commission's service obligations for universal service to all locations within the Bascom SAC referenced in the Public Notice. Although WATCH TV provides service within the Bascom SAC, it is unable to serve all subscribers in Bascom's SAC given its technology, terrestrial fixed wireless, has line-of- site limitations. WATCH TV therefore refutes the results of the Commission's preliminary analysis.

Sincerely, Ken Williams

Ken Williams

President and CEO

W.A.T.C.H. TV Company